

Harris Mill School Council Meeting April 6, 2021 (Virtual)

In attendance (council): Jen Tulloch, Amanda Samms, Marylynn Sabbagh, Jen McLeod, Martha Turner

In attendance (school): Madame Shashana Hare, Madame Ashley Mulhern

Regrets: Charlotte Kerby, Angie Mochrie

Meeting commenced: 7:05pm

1. Dec 1, 2020 Minutes Approval: deferred approval until close of meeting, but were then approved. Motioned by Amanda Samms, seconded by Martha Turner.

2. Committee Updates

A. Snack Program (Amanda Samms)

- Dry food/snack bins (not produce) are now back up and running and being distributed to the classrooms
- Children are asked to eat the contents of their lunch before asking for a snack
- The greeter at the school has agreed to fill up the snack baskets

B. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) (Martha Turner)

- Martha was not able to attend last few meetings
- Parent Engagement Seminars have been running since January, as follows:

January 28, 2021 Navigating Pathways and Understanding New Curriculum Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new Math Curriculum and Secondary Destreaming• Kindergarten in the UGDSB• Grade 8 to 9 Transitions• Post-Secondary Transitions
March 4, 2021 Parenting for Student Success During a Pandemic with Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health and Well-Being Breakouts
April 8, 2021 Navigating Special Education in the UGDSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports and Resources for Students and our Families

Registration has been positive (about 200-300 people per session) and these events have been well received. Slides from the sessions are available under the Parent Resources section of the PIC website here: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/pic/crp/>

- There is an upcoming seminar on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) on May 19, 2021 – cost is \$10 per parent to attend. More information can be found here:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehpp7jfz6fe439dd&oseq=&c=&ch=>

- The UGDSB Parent resource website is now active and contains tons of great info for parents and caregivers. Check it out here: <https://sites.google.com/ugcloud.ca/mhugparents>
- The UGDSB is developing Policy 519 on Indigenous Education (First Nations, Métis, Inuit); feedback from the public is welcome until April 22, 2021. More information can be found here: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-519-indigenous-education-first-nations-metis-inuit/>
- Many parents are asking if online schooling will continue as an option in September; this is still TBD by the board
- EQAO is cancelled for this year in Grades 3 and 6
- Please note that the PIC website has a LOT of information and resources, including all previous minutes. Parents are encouraged to bookmark the main page for ongoing access to PIC minutes and other content: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/pic/>

C. School Yard Committee (Jen McLeod)

- The playground is now open!
- During last meeting, some areas for additional improvement/spending were identified. Those were:
 - Cluster of logs for outdoor seating
 - Posts for shade sails
 - Trees
- Jen M has followed up on costs for the above items and shared the following:
 - Logs that would be about 10 ft long and 14-16 inches wide would be approx. \$400/log
 - Shade sail posts are \$500/post; we would need three to be arranged as a triangle or four in a rectangle (so anywhere from \$1500-\$2000)
 - Any trees that would be planted should follow the advice to plant the largest we can afford; a 60mm tree would be \$850 each
- “Best time to plant a tree is ten years ago, the next best time is now” ... all agreed that tree planting should continue to be a priority
- Jason (the contractor) has gained a lot more experience with the school board and has even built a physically distanced schoolyard
- Jen confirmed that work could be done on the school with minimal or no disruption; Jason could come in on weekends and there would be no need to close anything down

3. Treasurer Update (presented by Jen Tulloch on behalf of Angie Mochrie)

- Fundraising General account has \$4,585
- General School Council account has \$308
- Playground account has \$21,824
 - The board discussed whether the 10% reserve fund for ongoing repair/replace maintenance had been moved from this current balance and confirmed that it had not been
- 10% of the overall project cost was determined to be \$6,220.10 (including HST); the board **voted** to ensure that this amount be earmarked and kept separate for ongoing repair/replace fund (Vote was motioned by Jen McLeod and seconded by Marylyne Sabbagh)

- Madame Hare emailed Kimber and asked her to move \$6220.10 to a separate sub-line item to keep it separate within the Playground account; therefore, funds available after allocating the 10% are \$15,603.90
- Considering there being funds available, the board discussed whether we should approve purchases of logs, trees, and shade sail posts. Jen M and Jen T took an **action item** to revisit planned expenditures and projects in 1-2 weeks after there is more information about whether school closures would remain in place after April break.

4. Teacher and Principal Update (Madame Mulhern and Madame Hare)

Teacher Update:

- Thank you for the playground bins!
- The playground being open has been so exciting for everyone and it is great to see it being used
- We discussed having a more “official” celebration/opening soon, once we know more about school closures; Madame Hare took an **action item** to ensure that this occasion can be marked appropriately at the right time
- There was discussion about the contents of the playground bins specific to kindergarten classes. It appears that some items may not have been distributed, for example scoop sets
- Madame Mulhern took an **action item** to follow up on the contents and to review with Jen Tulloch

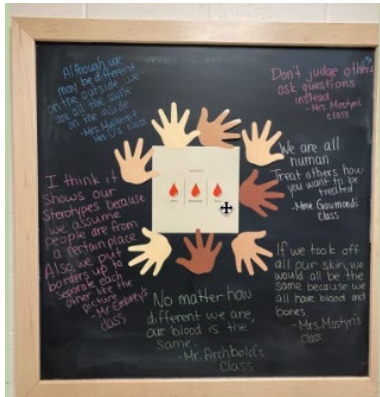
Principal Update:

- Welcome Kimber Evans, new office coordinator, who has been with the school for a few months now – she is fitting in wonderfully to the Harris Mill family!
- Please ensure that you are aware of and are following the Covid-19 symptom and screening policy, which is below:

- **A student with any single new COVID-19 symptom must isolate** until they test negative for COVID-19, receive an alternate diagnosis for the symptom, or have isolated for 10 days since symptoms began.
- **Everyone in your household should stay home if anyone has COVID-19 symptoms or is waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.** Stay home until the person with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test result, is cleared by Public Health, or is diagnosed with another illness.

- Madame Hare thanked the council for the arrival of 30 Chromebooks, the outdoor equipment, and the technology tubs. These are greatly needed and appreciated! Outside of the council, the school board also supplied 18 new Chromebooks **bringing a total of 48 new Chromebooks** to Harris Mill.
- Parking Update: to confirm, children in Grade 1+ should be dropped off using the Parkinson crescent and the path (which is not school property). Kindergarten students can be dropped off at the front of the school.
- February was Black History, Black Brilliance, and Black Futures month.
- The Perseverance Assembly on Feb 11, 2021 was appropriately featuring a book called “The Little Spot of Perseverance”; classes were asked to spotlight a famous person in black history who persevered, and to share their thoughts and projects at the month end assembly.

- Madame Hare shared pictures of these class projects from bulletin board displays and the council enjoyed seeing “inside” the school hallways for the first time in so long! We discussed how nice it would be for other parents to see examples of student artwork and confirmed the privacy regulation for sharing: student artwork is okay to be shared digitally if only the first name and initial. Considering this, Madame Hare took an **action item** to secure some photographs of artwork so the council could leverage and share this in upcoming communications to all parents.
- The February “Unlearn” Poster, as with all these posters, continues to elicit thought provoking responses and commentary from the classes. The poster and some representative comments are below:



- In honour of “I Read Canadian”, there was a school wide read aloud on February 17, 2021 of “The Thing Lou Couldn’t Do” by Ashley Spires; it also tied into the Black history month theme as it features a young black girl
- In honour of International Women’s Day on March 8, the Unlearn poster encouraged everyone to challenge traditional thinking on women’s sports/stereotypes and contained a picture of a ballerina thinking about martial arts.
- If you would like to see some of the unlearn posters you can go to the website and browse the Poster Packs to get an idea of some of the content – they are very powerful!
<https://unlearn.com/collections/posters-1>
- The children enjoyed spirit days during the March “break” – e.g., green day, comfy day, beach day
- Madame Hare confirmed that the snack program is running well and showed a picture of a typical snack bin:



- Picture day happened on April 6, 2021 and parents should hear more details on how to access the prints online in the next few weeks; note, there were no class pictures only individual
- Council asked about a re-take day given that there was a high degree of absenteeism on April 6; it is unlikely that this will happen, but Madame Hare confirmed that LifeTouch (the company taking the pictures) offer options to have photos taken in their studio
- The school is paying for upcoming Scientist in the School sessions in April to be hosted virtually

5. New Business

- Madame Hare raised the idea to council that we should consider a **committee on Equity and Inclusion** (exact name TBD). The Unlearn posters have generated great momentum and a council committee would extend help extend this important dialogue to parents and the broader community, as well as bring in new ideas from the council/community to the school. Together we can work to support Equity and Inclusion goals and keep the “unlearning” going. 😊 The council supports this idea and will move ahead with it.
- Discussion of the new committee led to other discussion on **attracting new members and general engagement**. We agreed we have all felt somewhat disconnected from the school this year, it is understandable given the challenges, but engagement is likely at a low. This not only makes it challenging to attract new members but to keep the ethos of our community school which thrives on parent engagement and support.
- Martha Turner and Jen Tulloch took an **action item** to follow up also with Charlotte Kerby (Communications Chair) on some ways we can increase parent engagement. A “what’s new in school council” communication was discussed whereby we could announce the new Equity and Inclusion post alongside other topics (e.g., samples of student artwork from “inside the halls”).
- It was noted that Rockwood Centennial was able to do fundraising this year and it was asked again if Harris Mill would consider a **fundraising** campaign. Madame Hare confirmed her preference to respect current challenges and financial constraints on school families and to defer fundraising completely until September 2021.

5. Wrap Up

- **Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm**
- **Next meeting Tuesday May 4, 2021**

Ongoing Summary of Action Items

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
1	Solicit more localized quotes for paving option of Parkinson Crescent to School Parking lot path	Jen MacLeod and Abi Coote	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	
2	Confirm set up/take down of shade sails at Brisbane, how often do they do this?	Madame Hare	November 3, 2020	Closed	Update provided November 30, 2020

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
3	Follow up with Danielle McLeod to confirm if any interest in lunch program ownership → Jen Tulloch and Amanda Samms	Amanda Samms	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	
4	Ensure links to PIC webinars are publicized to parent community	Martha Turner and Charlotte Kerby	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	Martha posts regularly on FB
5	Follow up on Pro Grant of \$500 from PIC as this has not yet been received	Martha Turner / Madame Hare	November 3, 2020 and discussed again on December 1, 2020	Closed	
6	Review previous minutes to confirm the desired split of danceathon funds and how the UGLF funds were to be allocated	Angie Mochrie and Jen Tulloch	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	
7	Ask Madame Graetz to request the UGLF funds and provide clarification on which account to move them to	Angie Mochrie	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	
8	Procure Mr. Embrey Wish List items	Jen Tulloch and Madame Graetz	November 3, 2020	Closed	Arrived
9	Procure Disc Golf items	Jen Tulloch and Madame Graetz	November 3, 2020	Closed	Arrived
10	Confirm tax rebate opportunities for when we purchase Chromebooks from board	Angie Mochrie and Madame Hare	November 3, 2020	Closed	Update Dec 4 via email from Jen Tulloch: I believe council will not pay HST, so won't be getting it back. This is an order that is placed through the board. When they send us an invoice and we then reimburse, they do not charge us the HST. I imagine that keeps things much simpler as

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
					then the board pays the HST and gets it back.
11	Put together a tree/outdoor classroom plan working with an estimate of \$15,000; consider engaging Wayne Cochrane	Jen MacLeod	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	Shade sails, outdoor seating to be discussed
12	Publish link to UGDSB Policy 503 Safe Schools which is open for feedback	Martha Turner	December 1, 2020	Closed	Shared on FB
13	Revisit planned playground expenditures and projects in 1-2 weeks after there is more information about whether school closures would remain in place after April break. Discuss Shade Sails, Logs, and Trees (Jen M has prices).	Jen MacLeod and Jen Tulloch	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	
13	Find the right time to celebrate the playground opening	Madame Hare	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	
13	Review the contents of the playground kindergarten bins and follow up to ensure correct distribution	Madame Mulhern and Jen Tulloch	April 6, 2021		
14	Secure some photographs of student artwork (with names covered up) so the council could leverage and share this in upcoming communications to all parents.	Madame Hare	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	
15	Increase parent engagement with a communication or update from school council, newsletter, video etc. Need ideas! Leverage this publication to announce the new Equity and Inclusion committee chair opportunity.	Martha Turner, Jen Tulloch, Charlotte Kerby	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	April 8: Jen reached out to Martha with sample from last year

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE, 2020-2021

Co-Chairs: Amanda Samms & Jen Tulloch
Past Chair: Marylyne Sabbagh
Communications Coordinator: Charlotte Kerby

Treasurer: Angie Mochrie
Secretary: Martha Turner
Volunteer Coordinator: Charlotte Kerby

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 2020-2021

Community Outreach: Lindsay Williams
Grant Writing: Wayne Cochrane?
Lunch Orders: TBD
Schoolyard: Jen McLeod & TBD

Snack Program: Amanda Samms
PIC (Parent Involvement Committee): Martha Turner
Yearbook: Jen Tulloch